dated February 23, 2007 to all Systemically Important non-deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) with asset size of Rs. 100 crore and above to undertake a scrutiny of their financial exposures to large borrowers for procurement of foodgrains. RBI has advised these NBFCs to consider a quick scrutiny of accounts on which they have large exposure and conform that funds have not been diverted for procurement of foodgrains with a view of hoarding. All such NBFCs have confirmed to RBI that funds have not been diverted for procurement of foodgrains so as to facilitate hoarding.

Selection of project management consultants for Japan aided project

4343. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry received suggestions from the Ministry of Urban Development for the selection of project management consultants for the Japan aided water and sewage project in Bangalore;

(b) what are the suggestions and what actions have been taken by his Ministry; and

(c) what is the progress of this internationally aided project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Urban Development has requested for a detailed investigation in the matter. As this is a State sector project, comments of the State Government have been sought on the observations of Ministry of Urban Development.

(c) The contract for Project Management Consultancy has been finalised. The loan disbursement under the project is nil till date.

Revival of Sick SSIs

4344. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any economic package for revival of sick small scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations of Kohli Working Group, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

has issued detailed guidelines to banks to detect sickness at an early stage and take remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. The State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC) has been set up in each State under the convenorship of RBI to deal with the problems of co-ordination for rehabilitation of sick SSI units. Banks have been advised to ensure restructuring of debt of all eligible small and medium enterprises. Sick SSI units that cannot be rehabilitated are encouraged to have one time settlement of their dues with the banks.

Disinvestment of equity in Insurance companies

4345. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to allow disinvestment of Government equity in four Public Sector General Insurance companies *i.e.* The New India Assurance, National Insurance, United and Oriental Insurance Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Strategic partners for BSE and NSE

4346. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cleared the proposals of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) to have strategic partners;

(b) whether member brokers will reduce their stake in these exchanges from 100 per cent to 49 per cent;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal of BSE and NSE;

(d) whether BSE and NSE are also considering an Initial Public Offer (IPO) during this financial year; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?